AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application.

1   1.   (Currently amended) A method for persistently storing an object belonging to a

2   class, wherein the method comprises performing a machine-executed operation

3   involving instructions, wherein the machine-executed operation is at least one of

4   comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

5   a)   sending said instructions over transmission media;

6   b)   receiving said instructions over transmission media;

7   c)   storing said instructions onto a machine-readable storage medium; and

8   d)   executing the instructions;

9   wherein said instructions are instructions which, when executed by one or more

10   processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

11   in response to receiving a request to instantiate instantiating a persistent

12   agent for said class, performing the steps of:

13   (a) creating one or more structures within a persistent object store,

14   wherein said one or more structures have portions that

15   correspond to respective fields of objects belonging to said

16   class; and

17   (b) instantiating a class-specific persistent agent for storing objects

18   that belong to said class, wherein the class-specific

19   persistent agent provides based on a name identifying the

20   class, said persistent agent providing an interface, including

21   that includes a routine, for persistently storing the object in

22   [[a]] said structures within said persistent object store,

23   wherein said class-specific persistent agent may only be

24   used for operations involving objects belonging to said

25   class; and

26   in response to invoking the routine, the class-specific persistent agent

27   storing the object in said one or more structures within the

28   persistent object store, wherein the object is not derived from a

29   persistent object base class ~~by invoking the routine via the interface~~

30   ~~provided by the persistent agent~~.

1   2.   (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said instructions,

2   when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to

3   further perform ~~further comprising~~ the step of modifying the object in the

4   persistent object store ~~based on~~ using the interface provided by the class-specific

5   persistent agent.

1   3.   (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of

2   instantiating the class-specific persistent agent includes the step of instantiating

3   the class-specific persistent agent based on a fully qualified name for the class.

1   4.   (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein:

2   the persistent object store includes a relational database;

3   and the step of the class-specific persistent agent storing the object in said one or

4   more structures within the persistent object store includes the step of the

5   class-specific persistent agent storing the object in at least one database

6   table corresponding to the class.

1   5.   (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein the step of

2   instantiating the class-specific persistent agent includes the steps of:

3   determining if the at least one database table corresponding to the class has been

4   created; and

5   if the at least one database table is determined not to have been created, then

6   creating the at least one database table.

1   6.   (Currently amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein the step of the

2   class-specific persistent agent storing the object in at least one database table

3   includes the [[steps]] step of:

4   storing values of at least some of [[the]] a set of fields, of the object, in

5   corresponding columns of the database table.

1   7.   (Currently amended) The method according to claim 6, <u>wherein said instructions,</u>

2   <u>when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to</u>

3   <u>further perform</u> ~~further comprising~~ the step of designating at least some of the

4   columns as primary key columns based on a list of corresponding field names of

5   the object.

1   8.   (Currently amended) The method according to claim 6, <u>wherein said instructions,</u>

2   <u>when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to</u>

3   <u>further perform</u> ~~further comprising~~ the step of building an index on at least some

4   of the columns based on a list of corresponding field names of the object.

1   9.   (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, <u>wherein said object is a</u>

2   <u>first object, wherein said class is a first class,</u> wherein the <u>first</u> object contains ~~an~~

3   ~~other~~ <u>a second</u> object <u>that</u> [[belong]] <u>belongs</u> to ~~an other~~ <u>a second</u> class, ~~said~~

4   ~~method further comprising the steps of~~<u>wherein said instructions, when executed</u>

5   <u>by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to further perform</u>

6   <u>the steps of</u>:

7   instantiating ~~an other~~ <u>a second</u> class-specific persistent agent based on ~~the other~~

8   <u>said second</u> class<u>, wherein said second class-specific persistent agent may</u>

9   <u>only be used for operations involving objects belonging to said second</u>

10   <u>class, wherein said second class is different than said first class</u>; and

11   storing the ~~other~~ <u>second</u> object in the persistent object store based on the ~~other~~

12   <u>second</u> class-specific persistent agent.

1   10.   (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, <u>wherein said instructions,</u>

2   <u>when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to</u>

3   <u>further perform</u> ~~further comprising~~ the step of establishing a session with the

4   persistent object store[[;]]<u>,</u> wherein the step of instantiating the <u>class-specific</u>

5   persistent agent includes the step of instantiating the <u>class-specific</u> persistent agent

6   based on the session.

1   11.   (Currently amended) A method ~~of~~ <u>for</u> retrieving a set of objects from a persistent

2 object store, <u>wherein the method comprises performing a machine-executed</u>

3 <u>operation involving instructions, wherein the machine-executed operation is at</u>

4 <u>least one of</u> ~~comprising the steps of~~:

5 <u>a)</u> <u>sending said instructions over transmission media;</u>

6 <u>b)</u> <u>receiving said instructions over transmission media;</u>

7 <u>c)</u> <u>storing said instructions onto a machine-readable storage medium; and</u>

8 <u>d)</u> <u>executing the instructions;</u>

9 <u>wherein said instructions are instructions which, when executed by one or more</u>

10 <u>processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:</u>

11 <u>in response to a receiving a request to instantiate</u> ~~instantiating~~ a persistent

12 agent <u>for a particular class, instantiating a class-specific persistent</u>

13 agent <u>for retrieving objects of said particular class</u> ~~based on a name~~

14 ~~identifying a class~~, said <u>class-specific</u> persistent agent ~~providing~~

15 <u>provides</u> an interface<u>, that includes</u> ~~including~~ a routine<u>,</u> for

16 retrieving ~~a set of~~ objects <u>of said particular class</u> from the

17 persistent object store<u>, wherein the class-specific persistent agent</u>

18 <u>may only be used for operations involving objects that belong to</u>

19 <u>said particular class</u>; and

20 <u>in response to invoking the routine, the class-specific persistent agent</u>

21 retrieving the set of objects [[in]] <u>from</u> the persistent object store

22 ~~by invoking the routine via the interface provided by the persistent~~

23 ~~agent~~.

1 12. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein the step of <u>the</u>

2 <u>class-specific persistent agent</u> retrieving the set of objects includes the step of <u>the</u>

3 <u>class-specific persistent agent</u> retrieving the set of objects [[in]] <u>from</u> the

4 persistent object store based further on a predicate.

1 13-17. (Cancelled)

1 18. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein said class-specific persistent agent is

2 instantiated based on a name identifying said particular class.